

# OUR Devon News

TOWN OF  
**Devon**  
ALBERTA

WINTER 2021/2022



## Important Dates

- **Feb. 2** – Winter Walk Day
- **Feb. 21** – Family Day/re:Fresh Air
- **Apr. 22-29** – Pitch In Devon Community Clean Up
- **Apr. 29** – Volunteer Appreciation Night
- **May** – Swimming Lesson Registration Opens

Please note, event dates and format may be modified due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Learn more at [devon.ca/events](https://devon.ca/events)

## Upcoming Council Meetings

Council Meetings take place on the second and fourth Mondays of the month and start at 7 p.m. at the Town of Devon Office at 1 Columbia Ave. West, Devon. All public is welcome to attend.

Jan. 10  
& 24

Feb. 14  
& 28

Mar. 14  
& 28

Apr. 11  
& 25

## Message from Mayor & Council



Mayor  
Jeff Craddock

**Happy New Year Devon** and thank you for putting your trust in us to govern our community for the next 4-year term. We have a diverse group here on Council that is ready to get to work to attract new development to Devon while ensuring we stay true to the values and identity of our beautiful Town.

Each year, Council works to establish strategic priorities that serve as a framework to set the direction of the work to be done over the course of its term. These priorities can be short-term or long-term and are updated as needed to ensure our vision is executed within the community.

### Council's Strategic Priorities

Through our Strategic Priorities Planning Sessions in late fall, we identified 4 immediate priorities to be addressed.

**1. Public Engagement** – Looking for opportunities to improve engagement between the Town, Council and residents to ensure all voices are heard in the community and information is shared when decisions are being made.

**2. Growth Strategy** – Identifying a strategy for bringing sustainable growth to Devon

**3. Recreation Facility** – Determining if new funding can be obtained for the Recreation Facility Expansion and then decide on whether to move forward or explore new options.

**4. Business Outreach** – Looking for new ways to support Devon's business community.

Work has started with Administration on addressing these immediate priorities and we look forward to sharing our outcomes as well as when we are ready to move on to new challenges and opportunities.

Being honest and transparent with our residents is also a key value all members of our Council share and we will continue to do our part to share information from the Town that may affect those in our community.

Finally, please join us in thanking our previous Council for their work and contributions to our community. Serving on Council is a privilege that presents many challenges, and we look forward to continuing this work while creating a Devon that we are all proud to call home.



# Meet your 2021-2025 Council



**Mayor Jeff Craddock** ✉ [MayorCraddock@devon.ca](mailto:MayorCraddock@devon.ca)

Hello Devon and thank you for allowing me to earn your vote this past fall. It is an honour to serve as Mayor of our beautiful Town.

I came to Devon in 1992 as a young man pursuing a career in utilities at Devon's Water & Wastewater Plants, through which I was blessed to meet my wife Kathy. I have worn a few different hats professionally over the years with experience in power engineering, project management and instructing through NAIT.

One of my most cherished positions in my many years of service has been working with First Nations water and wastewater infrastructure and training programs under the First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG) with the federal government. Politically, I have previously served on Council here in Devon between 1997 and 2007, both as Councillor and Mayor. I am excited to return to this stage again and work with our new group for the next 4 years.

**Councillor Chris Belke** ✉ [cbelke@devon.ca](mailto:cbelke@devon.ca)

My family and I moved here over 30 years ago, and now four generations of my family live here in the Town of Devon. We love this community and want Devon to continue to be a great place for everybody for many years to come.

After a long career working for Alberta Municipal Affairs and in nearby municipalities, I now work as a Legislative and Governance Consultant providing services to municipalities and non-profit organizations.

This is my fifth term serving on Town Council. I am proud of what I helped to accomplish for the Town in the past and look forward to what the current Council will be able to achieve in the coming years.



**Councillor Brian Bowles** ✉ [bbowles@devon.ca](mailto:bbowles@devon.ca)

My wife Melodie and I are long-time residents of Devon where we have raised our two adult children Melissa and Brandon. We have been involved throughout the community over the years from minor ball & hockey to raising funds for various community projects and the Food Bank.

I have had a long and rewarding career in municipal service and the privilege of working with many great people in Killam, Barrhead, Devon and most recently Leduc County.

Melodie and I are very proud to live here in Devon and appreciate all the support we have received. I look forward to continuing to work hard and doing my part to move our community forward.

**Councillor Gurk Dhanoo** ✉ [gdhanoo@devon.ca](mailto:gdhanoo@devon.ca)

Wow Devon, first up thank you for your support in the election!

I have no words to express how wonderful these first 4 years have been in Devon for me and my family since moving here from Calgary in 2017. My wife Surinder and I have two daughters, Amarjeet at Robina Baker Elementary and Ajuni, our #WildChild who keeps us all entertained and busy every day.

I am a big NFL guy and my absolute favorite team is the Minnesota Vikings. If you know your football, I can talk about it for hours. One thing you may not know about me... I cannot swim or skate, but I hope in the next couple years I can learn to do both!



**Councillor Anita Fisher** ✉ [afisher@devon.ca](mailto:afisher@devon.ca)

I am grateful for the opportunity to have called Devon home for over 40 years. My husband Ken was born and raised in Devon, and we are both alumni of JMHS. We have raised our children here and are now enjoying watching our grandchildren grow up with the exceptional quality of life that our community provides.

I am thrilled to serve Devon once again as a member of Council and looking forward to working with my Council colleagues, businesses and residents over the next four years to continue to create an outstanding community we will be proud to call home for generations.

**Councillor Ben Gronberg** ✉ [bgronberg@devon.ca](mailto:bgronberg@devon.ca)

First, it is very surreal to be elected as Devon's youngest Councillor ever and I am so honored to be able to share this perspective with our team here on Council.

I was born and raised in Devon and love our beautiful river valley town. My first job was with the Devon Dispatch, delivering papers and years later, I had the privilege of working at our beloved Devon Pool for 7 years, first as a lifeguard and eventually in management.

I am extremely close to my three older sisters and have a scraggly little dog. In my free time, I enjoy watching cheesy movies, having a good laugh, and running on our amazing trails. I'm passionate about Devon and love chatting with residents – please, reach out to me anytime!



**Councillor Tanya Hugh** ✉ [thugh@devon.ca](mailto:thugh@devon.ca)

I can't believe I am already on my third term since joining Council back in 2013 and I am so thankful to our community for putting your trust in me again to continue to do what I feel is best for Devon.

Like many of my fellow Councillors, I have lived in Devon most of my life and my family has always been active and involved in our Town.

I am very lucky to have the support of my husband Neal and our 4 daughters as I enter my third term and I hope to keep making my family proud as I work with this new group to build a community we can all be proud to share.



# Devon's 2022 Operating & Capital Budget

Devon Council has approved the 2022 Operating & Capital Budgets at their December 13, 2021, Council Meeting with a 3.90% municipal tax increase for 2022.

For a household with a median assessed value of **\$305,000**, the estimated impact of a **3.90 per cent** tax increase is about **\$71.97 per year** or **\$6.00 per month**. Property assessments are based on the market value of a property as of July 1 of the previous year.

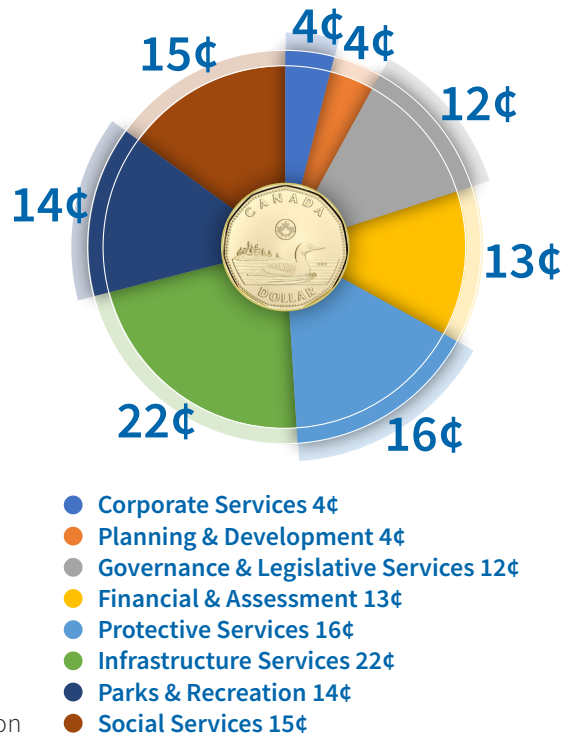
## Highlights in the 2022 Budgets include:

- Debenture costs for the new ball diamonds development and paving of Range Road 262
- Extension of Michigan Street to Highway 19
- Installation of new solar crosswalks
- Replacement of Fire/Rescue Engine (cost shared 50/50 with Parkland County)
- Funding for the continuation of RVA Trail East (cost shared 1/3 with RVA & Federal Government)
- Maintaining reserve transfers for the future of Town facilities

The final municipal tax rate will be approved in May 2022 and tax notices will be mailed out to Devon property owners on May 31 with payment due June 30, 2022.

## Where municipal tax dollars go

### 2022 BUDGET



## 2022 Utility Budget

Along with the municipal tax increase for 2022, Council passed Devon's 2022 utility rates that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2022, with a small increase to sewer & bulk water rates and zero increases to water, municipal solid waste and natural gas rates.

### Water Rate (no change from 2021)

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$13.46
- Commodity Charge: \$1.55 per cubic metre

### Sewer Rate (increase of 4.65% for 2022)

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$35 per month
- Commodity Charge: \$1.85 per cubic metre

### Natural Gas Rate (no change from 2021)

- Basic Monthly Charge: \$35 per month
- Distribution Charge: \$1.57 per GJ

### Solid Waste & Recycling Rate (no change)

- Monthly Charge for Weekly Pickup: \$30 per month

### Bulk Water Rate (Up \$0.25/m<sup>3</sup> for 2022)

- \$5.00 per cubic metre

More info at:  
**devon.ca**



## Understanding your Town Utility Bill

With the recent increase in the price of natural gas, combined with the extremely cold weather in December and January, residents received higher-than-average utility bills this month. The good news is that the cost of natural gas has dropped dramatically in January and will be around the \$4/GJ rate.

To help residents better understand their utility bill, each line on the bill is outlined below.

### Natural Gas Utility

- **Supplier Cost:** This is the variable rate set by the current natural gas market that the Town of Devon pays to its supplier Gas Alberta per GJ of natural gas used. The Town does not control this rate and the exact cost the Town pays for the natural gas is passed onto the customer with no markup.
- **Federal Fuel:** This is the carbon levy applied by the Government of Canada and administered at a rate of \$2.10 per GJ of natural gas used (goes up to \$2.63 per GJ on April 1, 2022). This is another flowthrough cost that the Town does not control.
- **Gas Distribution:** This is the Town's portion of the bill and accounts for the administrative costs (\$35/month) plus distribution costs (\$1.57/GJ) of natural gas to residents. These are the rates set by Council in the Town's Utility Budget each year and have not increased since 2018.

### Water & Sewer (Wastewater) Utility

- **Water:** This is the Town's charge for water usage by a property and accounts for the administrative cost (\$13.46/month) plus the cost of water used (\$1.55/m<sup>3</sup>).
- **Sewer:** This is the Town's charge for sewer usage by a property and accounts for the administrative costs (\$35/month) plus the cost of water used (\$1.85/m<sup>3</sup>).
- **Storm Water Drainage:** This is a flat charge of \$8 per month to a property that goes to fund drainage infrastructure projects and prevent potential flood events within the community

Many residents have asked why water and wastewater are separated out as utilities and this is simply because the revenues generated by each go to support the operations of each facility at the Town (Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants).

<b>Town of Devon</b> 1 Columbia Avenue West Devon, AB T9G 1A1		Contact Us Utility Billing Inquiries: After Hours message 24-Hour Emergency line Monday to Friday: Ways to Pay Your Bill: • Pre-Authorized Payment • Banking online • Mail • Town Office • Drop Box Receive your bill via email Moving: Please contact us moving within Devon for Duplicate paper copies of charge
DOE, JOHN DOE MARY 123 SAMPLE DRIVE DEVON, AB T9G 1A1		Meter Reading and Usage: Meter: 1308990224 Reading on 9/28/2021 Previous reading on 8/28/2021 Amount of water used: Meter: 920 Reading on 9/28/2021 Previous reading on 8/28/2021 Amount of gas used: Payment and Adjustments: Payment on 9/13/2021
Billing Date: October 8, 2021 Billing Period: September 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021 Your account number: 00085500000.01 For service at: 123 SAMPLE DRIVE Due Date: November 5, 2021		
<b>Amount Owning</b> Balance Forward ..... \$222.85 Adjustments processed ..... \$0.00 Late fees added ..... \$0.00 Payments processed ..... \$222.85 Thank you		
<b>New Charges</b> Federal Fuel \$2.10/GJ ..... \$6.22 Solid Waste \$30.00/month ..... \$30.00 Water \$13.46/month + \$1.55/m <sup>3</sup> ..... \$47.56 Gas Dist \$35.00/month + \$1.57/GJ ..... \$39.65 Supplier Cost - SEPT \$3.64/GJ ..... \$10.77 Sewer \$33.60/month + \$1.76/m <sup>3</sup> ..... \$72.32 Storm Water Drainage ..... \$8.00 GST # R108126046 ..... \$2.83		

### Waste & Recycling

- **Solid Waste:** This is the cost associated with year-round weekly waste and recycling pickup, weekly organics pickup during the spring/summer months and bi-weekly organics pickup during the fall/winter months. This also includes the Large Item Pick Up event the Town runs in the spring and fall.

You can learn more about your  
Town utility bill at  
**devon.ca/yourutilitybill.**

# Digital Economy Program launches in Devon

## Digital Economy Program

Devon is proud to partner with the University of Alberta, Business Link and Digital Main Street to launch the new Digital Economy Program (DEP). This program aims to support small businesses as they integrate or upgrade their online operations.

With over 95% of businesses in Alberta being a small business, this free service can be a game changer for many businesses looking to adapt to new technology to increase sales, hire more staff and build our economy.

Examples of support through the DEP include helping small businesses build their online presence, adding eCommerce, creating a social media plan and other digital practices to help businesses thrive.

### To be eligible for the DEP, businesses must:

- Be registered in Alberta
- Have 0 to 49 employees (includes self-employed business owners with no employee)
- Be a home-based or commercial business

To learn more about the DEP, go to **yourDEP.ca**.

DIGITAL  
MAIN ST.



## HOW IT WORKS



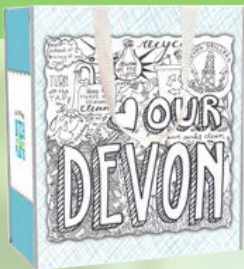
1. Confirm Eligibility



2. Complete Signup Form



3. Meet Your Consultants



## Bring your bags starting April 4, 2022

Many residents may recall on Jan. 1, 2020, the Town implemented a Single-Use Plastic Retail Bag Bylaw to reduce single-use plastic waste

in our landfill. The Bylaw was relaxed later that year due to the uncertainties associated with Covid-19.

With one of Devon's local grocery chains taking the step to stop distributing plastic bags last year, the Town has set a date of **Monday, April 4, 2022**, for local businesses to use up their bag stock and get back on track with reducing plastic waste in our community.

### Reusable bags available at the Town Office

Residents looking for some extra reusable bags are invited to drop by the Town of Devon Office during regular business hours (Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) and pick up a reusable bag. Bags will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, and limited to 2 per household.

“Local Businesses will begin phasing out plastic bags on April 4th, 2022”

## CONTACT US

*This newsletter is printed on sustainably sourced paper.*



1 Columbia Avenue West,  
Devon, AB T9G 1A1



780-987-8300



Office Open Monday to Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
(except holidays)



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